



Branching Out

February 20, 2009

The mission of Three Rivers Environmental Educators is to promote collaboration of resources and provide networking opportunities for environmental educators in the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula areas of Virginia.+

TREE meetings:

Next meeting April 21, 11 am, at beautiful Stratford Hall, 483 Great House Road, Montross VA. We will get a special tour of the mansion, and have a chance to walk the nature trails or go down to find shark's teeth on the fossil beach. Visit their website at www.stratfordhall.org

Local Events:

March 5, Babes in the Woods: Is that Baby Animal Really Orphaned? 1-3 pm

Belle Isle State Park continues the Winter Warmers series with Diana O'Connor, resident rehabilitator of Wild Bunch wildlife refuge in Warsaw. Every spring they care for hundreds of baby animals brought to them by well-meaning citizens, and answer hundreds of phone calls related to the "orphaned animals." In many cases these animals are not orphaned at all. Mothers routinely leave their young in a protected spot while they forage for food, returning several times during the day to feed and care for their young. This talk will demonstrate how to tell if an animal has been orphaned and what to do if one is found.

Diana O'Connor is the resident rehabilitator. Diana has been rehabbing for 18 years and, in the year 2008, cared for over 700 animals, including virtually all of the native mammals and birds found in our area. Her husband, Dennis, is extremely supportive, and spends his weekends working on refuge improvements.

Grow Local, Buy Local, Eat Local—Food for Thought

The Northern Neck Master Gardeners will present their annual Gardening the Northern Neck seminar on Saturday, March 21, 9 am to 3:30 pm at the Church of the Nazarene in White Stone. Morning and afternoon keynote speakers, breakout sessions, panel discussions, and a market place are planned. For more information and registration details call the Northumberland Extension office at (804) 580-5694 or e-mail kingdon@kaballero.com

Other Events:

Boy Scout Conclave 2009

April 25th, Jamaica, VA

Interested in getting your message to hundreds of scouts? Join the fun at their annual conclave with a booth and hands-on activities.

For more information, contact [David Singletary](#)

The Virginia Living Museum in Newport News is opening a "Living Green House and Garden" in June 2009. The project is designed to demonstrate how choices for products and landscaping can improve the environment while highlighting for the general public the green design options and products that are becoming more available to architects and contractors. The 600-square-foot "Living Green" house will contain exhibits that promote recycling, water conservation, green building products and energy conservation. Much of the building incorporates green design elements in a way to make them visible and understandable to the general public. The "green" house is surrounded by a 3,000-square-foot "Conservation Garden" that highlights "earth-friendly" gardening techniques, such as use of native plants, mulching, composting and reduced use of synthetic fertilizers/pesticides. Such landscaping has many environmental benefits including reducing storm water runoff and pollution into local waterways, while providing food, water and shelter for wildlife.

Free Tools and other Cool Stuff

The Shenandoah Valley SWCD and NRCS have three species of cuttings available (**for free**) to those interested in plantings for **streambank restoration and protection**. Species available include: Red Osier Dogwood (limited quantities available) , Streamco Willow, and Bankers Dwarf Willow.

Planting cuttings of these species along an unvegetated streambank is a great bio-engineering practice that can help **stabilize an eroding streambank**. It also helps promote a healthier terrestrial and aquatic habitat than traditional streambank restoration measures. For optimum survival, rooting and re-growth potential, the cuttings should be planted in **early spring (early March to early April)**.

These **shrubs** will grow to between 10-15 feet tall. When it floods , the cuttings are flexible and lie down rather than breaking which allow s the water to flow over-top, while **their roots help anchor soil and protect the streambank**.

The District has **directions on how to prepare the cuttings for planting and how to properly plant the cuttings**.

The cuttings are available on a **PRE-ORDER REQUEST BASIS** from the District office. [You do not have to live in the Shenandoah area to participate, but you will need to travel to pick the cuttings up yourself.] For more information or **to request cuttings please contact the District at (540) 433-2853, Ext. 4** . Please Note: when you call to request your cuttings you **will need to provide the following information**:

- Contact Name
- Phone Number
- Species of cuttings you are requesting
- Location where the cuttings will be planted (general location-name of stream/waterbody) and the size of the area to be planted

All cuttings will be available for pick up from the Shenandoah Valley SWCD office on Deyerle Avenue in Harrisonburg during the first two full weeks of March (3/5-3/16).

You will need to **bring a bucket**, container or some type of bag to put your plant materials in. (Note: The cuttings should be kept cool and damp until they are planted.) Cuttings are provided as long whips that are approximately 4-7 feet long. You will need to prepare the cuttings for planting by cutting the whip (long piece) into smaller plantable stakes. An instruction sheet will be provided when you pick up your cuttings

Tracks to Success

[How to Increase Office Productivity Using Free Software](#)

How to Increase Office Productivity Using Free Software is an eight-part series that covers everything nonprofits need to know about moving from costly desktop office software to Google's free online office tools suite. This series offers tutorials for getting started with Google – using and configuring Google Mail (Gmail); Google Calendar; and Google Docs, including the spreadsheet and presentation functions – as well as a host of other free applications that increase productivity and are fun to learn. This series will show you how your organization can easily make use of Google's tools to achieve organizational objectives for both novice and experienced computer users. To read "Introducing Google's Free Online Suite of Tools," the first article in the series, click on the link above.

Grants, Volunteers, and Funding:

Collaboration Grants Preserve Local History

[The History Channel: Save Our History Grant Program](#)

The Save Our History Grant Program, developed by the History Channel, provides funding to support collaboration between history organizations and schools or youth groups on projects that teach children about their local heritage and actively engage them in its preservation. Projects must focus on a significant aspect of community heritage, such as the history and/or preservation of a building, historic site, historic collection, or an historic event that is important to the local community. Grants of up to \$10,000 will be provided; a total of \$100,000 in grants will be available in 2009. Eligible applicants include history museums, historical societies, preservation organizations, historic sites, libraries, archives, government agencies, and other historical organizations that partner with K-12 schools, or organizations that provide educational programming for children of similar ages. Online applications must be submitted through the website listed above by June 5, 2009.

Jobs

[Washington Metro Green Jobs Fair](#)

February 27, Arlington: Westin Arlington Gateway
Climate Change and its Impact on Northern Virginia

Senior Communications Manager, Global Warming

Description: The National Wildlife Federation seeks a Senior Communications Manager for Global Warming to translate NWF's programmatic messages into the media – newspapers, television, radio, magazines and internet – in a manner that establishes NWF as a leader and that projects and reinforces NWF's brand and strategic priorities. The Senior Communications Manager for Global Warming is a senior-level position that requires experience in public or media relations as well as working knowledge of global warming. This position will create and implement media and communications strategies for the organization's global warming related priorities, with an emphasis on federal policy priorities, oversee and assist with global warming-related media projects being implemented by other team members and serve as the primary point person from the media team on global warming media efforts. This position may require work on weekends and in the evenings and some travel.

Qualified candidates should have a BA or BS degree in an appropriate discipline (English, journalism, public relations) and at least seven years of progressively responsible experience in campaign or advocacy-related communications. Demonstrated ability to place stories and messages in major media markets is a must. Experience pitching broadcast media is a plus. Experience or familiarity with global warming as a conservation issue is preferred.

Apply at <http://www.nwf.org/careergateway>

Job Type: Full Time permanent

Salary Detail: Based on Qualifications

Deadline: 5-10-2009

Organization: [National Wildlife Federation](#)

Contact Person: Patrice Garnett

Phone: (703)438-6227

E-Mail: garnettp@nwf.org

Mailing Address: 11100 Wildlife Center Drive
Reston VA 20190-5362

K-12 Sector Manager, U.S. Green Building Council

Washington, DC US

The U.S. Green Building Council, a Washington, DC-based national nonprofit organization of over 17,000 corporate and organizational members from every sector of the building industry united to transform the building marketplace to sustainability, is currently seeking an engaging and savvy professional with strong knowledge of school operations and excellent program and relationship management abilities to serve as the principal in-house program lead for the schools market sector.

Position Overview:

The K-12 Sector Manager will provide comprehensive management in the development and implementation of green building and planning for schools and school districts, and will coordinate related schools sector efforts throughout the organization. This sector manager will also be responsible for achieving annual business plan goals for the recruitment of K-12 participants and implementation of quantified green school activity throughout the US.

Responsibilities:

Program Management:

Support development and implementation of annual program budget and business plan in collaboration with other departmental staff.

Handle administrative and customer service tasks as needed.

Prepare program and financial progress reports as needed.

Assist in general program areas such as creating new resources for customers, defining technology infrastructure needs, planning events for customers, and various other needs.

Outreach and Marketing:

Lead development and delivery of resources, events, services and training

Initiate and develop relationships with the K-12 community including collaborative relationships with related non-profits and associations.

Spearhead strategic partnerships.

Coordinate with Chapters staff to support grass roots efforts of 78 local Green School Advocacy Committees.

Coordinate with USGBC Marketing and Education staff in the development of marketing and education materials targeted to the schools sector.

Coordinate with Advocacy staff to support efforts of the Federal Green School Caucus, USGBC 50 for 50 Initiative and the Mayors Green School Alliance.

Attend and present at relevant conferences, representing USGBC

Technical Development:

Serve as a liaison to the LEED technical development team to provide information and assist with the development of new products and the resolution of technical issues related to the schools sector.

Related Organizational Goals and Objectives:

Encourage and accelerate global adoption of green building and operations practices through LEED standards, tools and performance criteria.

Assist in the development and implementation of a comprehensive set of program offerings including technical tools and services supporting LEED products to meet the diverse needs of the building industry.

Deliver customer service that is professional, timely and targeted to the customer's needs.

Qualifications:

Minimum 3 years experience related to K-12 facilities operations, design or construction; experiences working for a school district preferred.

Bachelors degree in a related building industry, policy or environmental discipline, masters preferred

Attention to detail and ability to handle multiple tasks

Excellent communication, organizational and computer skills

Outstanding public speaking ability

Ability to establish and maintain strong interpersonal relationships with a diverse array of individuals and constituents

Very strong organizational and project management skills

Experience managing support staff strongly preferred

Commitment to USGBC Mission

Compensation: Compensation includes an excellent benefits package, including 100% employer-paid premiums on healthcare and employer-matching 401(k) program.

To Apply:

Please submit resume and letter of interest, with salary requirements and title of position applying for, via email or fax, attn: L. Jay. 202-478-5046 (fax)

jobs@usgbc.org

<http://www.usgbc.org>

Youth Opportunities

Nominations are now being accepted for the 63rd annual Holiday Lake Forestry Camp, to be held June 15-20, 2009 at Holiday Lake 4-H Center near Appomattox. This academically-focused camp provides students with field experiences in forestry and other natural resource disciplines.

Educators, and others working with youth, are invited to nominate interested students, aged 13-16, who have not previously attended. The nomination deadline is April 20. For nomination forms and more information, please visit <http://www.dof.virginia.gov/edu/camp.shtml>

This is an outstanding opportunity for our youth age 13 - 16, with an interest in forestry, wildlife and related careers. Youth must be nominated by an adult in order to be considered for this camp, and all youth who are selected receive a \$200 scholarship.

What a Way to Spend the Summer—Youth Conservation Corps

The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, Virginia State Parks is now taking applications for the 2009 Youth Conservation Corps program. The two three-week sessions are scheduled as follows; session one: June 21 - July 11, session two: July 19 – Aug 8. The student may only attend one of the sessions. YCC participants assist with an assortment of projects in Virginia State Parks, including wildlife and fisheries habitat improvement, trail and campground construction and restoration, timber and shoreline improvement, and landscape beautification. The YCC is modeled after the federal service program AmeriCorps and the depression-era Civilian Conservation Corps that built the original six Virginia State Parks. Teams of 10 participants will be chosen from current high school students aged 14-17 (participants must be 14 by 1 June 2009) who demonstrate an interest in protecting Virginia's environment. While no prior experience is necessary, participants will work outside, and the service is physically demanding. A positive attitude, an interest in learning, curiosity about interpreting nature, desire to work on outdoor projects and live away from home in our parks for three weeks are also important factors in the selection process. The 2009 YCC sessions will be held at 10-12 State Parks across the Commonwealth. YCC crew members are provided room, board, tee-shirts and work-related equipment, and receive a \$500 stipend at the end of the three weeks.

The work is outdoors and often physically demanding, but the memories and experiences the youth take away last forever. The YCC application deadline for students is 11 April. For more information contact Gaston at 703.583.5497, Fax 703.583.2514 e-mail vspycc@dcr.virginia.gov or visit www.dcr.virginia.gov. You can apply on line at: http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state_parks/ycc.shtml

Got news, job postings, events, or other information to share? Want to brag about awards? Hear about something that would be of interest to members? Send them to charlene.talcott@dcr.virginia.gov

Please forward this to anyone that might be interested. Want to be included on the TREE mailings? Contact jtritz@vt.edu